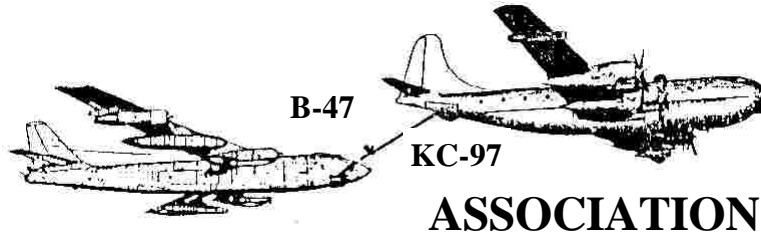
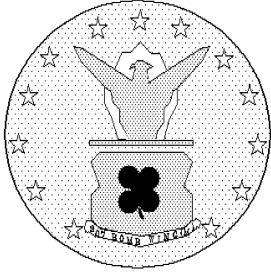


307TH BOMB WING



ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 26

For all former members of the 307th Bomb Wing at Lincoln AFB, Nebraska

NOVEMBER 1998

Air Force Academy Plaque In Place

Chairman's Report

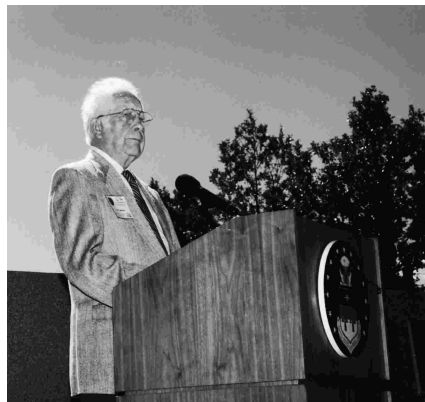
We had a great time in Colorado Springs. "The Schultz" and his group did a marvelous job with the reunion. The weather held and we got in a little golf- no scores will be reported or admitted. The Blue Course at the Academy was in excellent condition.

On Thursday evening we bussed to the Flying W, the food was good; the idea was to simulate a chuck wagon meal and that they did. They warn you to put your hand on the metal plate under the applesauce, not under the hot beans; that's good advice. The music program was, simply put, excellent - country of course - but we were entertained by a really professional group of musicians (one of whom was a pretty good storyteller).

The dedication of our Memorial Plaque at the academy was heart warming, tearful and sincere. We had over 200 attending the reunion and there must have been 150 at the ceremony. The uniformed Cadets, the flag and the words spoken can really get to you. The plaque depicting the KC-97 refueling a B-47 is just great. If you could not attend maybe someday you can stop by and see it (a picture is elsewhere in this newsletter). We had lunch before

the dedication in the Arnold Building (named for Hap Arnold) and we had time also to see the Academy Chapel (a magnificent structure).

Several people went to Cripple Creek for gambling Thursday night - HAPPY TIMES - one of our ladies, Helen Otten, hit a \$ 161,000 jackpot on a nickel



Tony Minnick dedicates the 307th Memorial Plaque at the Air Force Academy.

slot machine! FANTASTIC! ...And they had given her the nickels to play with.

We had a nice dinner dance and an enlightened speech about the future - by Bernie Randolph. The speed of computers will improve our future and the General believes space travel will become somewhat routine in the future.

I'm sure Robert Schultz has a report in here about the reunion, but one thing he probably didn't tell you - but I will. He told us of how Katherine Lee Bates, Professor of English at Wellesley made a trip up Pikes Peak July 22, 1893 in a Prairie Schooner - drawn by a mixture of 4 horses and 4 mules, through Bear Canyon and up the rugged south slope of the mountain. At the crest, she was so impressed with it's majestic view she wrote a verse, AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL. For 2 years the verse remained in her desk only later to be poetically recalled and published Nov 19, 1904. It was not until 1928 that the poem was married to the tune - MATERNA, previously written by Samuel Ward in 1882. At this time, Robert surprised all of us with a deep baritone rendition of that most lovely song. Well done Robert, and thanks again for a great reunion.

We are starting to plan for Lincoln 2000 - no date yet but put us in your long-range plans. Incidentally, at our Colorado Springs business meeting, Betty Pelletier pointed out that some widows, and perhaps other singles, are discouraged from attending our reunions, because they have no one to room with, or to "buddy-up" with. This is a very good point. I'd like to let you know we are working on a solution to facilitate our widows/singles pairing up. We'll let you know more later, as our Lincoln plans develop.

Tony Minnick

Around the Wing

Another story from Lincoln's early
(Continued on page 3)

Our introductory picture this issue is provided through the courtesy of **Burt Vorchheimer** (ARS), of Philadelphia, PA. Burt titled it, "What the Boomer Saw", and we believe it's one of the most beautiful B-47 pictures ever, especially when seen in color. Burt, who went on to an engineering career with Bell Labs, took it over the Dakotas, against a snowscape in early 1959, while flying on **Rick Berggren's** crew. **Willie Martens** was the boomer. Burt says it demonstrates the boom-flying talents of guys like Willie, who have been under-appreciated far too long. Amen.

307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association

Chairman: Tony Minnick, 5920 Robin Court, Lincoln, NE 68516. Phone 402-423-6848. Email: tonym@inetnebr.com

Chairman's Committee

Secretary & Membership: Vern Biaett, 9519 W Timberline Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. Phone 602-972-7328. Email: sgdh46a@prodigy.com

Treasurer: Sue Jacob, 4420 N 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68521. Phone 402-477-6842. Email: s.jacob@aol.com

Newsletter: Mike Gingrich, 1525 Edenwood Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45434. Phone 937-426-5675. Email: mikegingrich@compuserve.com

Co-Historian: Robert Loffredo, 6004 SW 2nd St, Des Moines, IA 50315. Phone 515-285-3445. Email: mustang51h@juno.com

Co-Historian: Ernie Pence, 2001 A St, Schuyler, NE 68661. Phone 402-352-5327.

Co-Founder: Billy Williams, PO Box 29233, 5141 N 72nd St, Lincoln, NE 68529-0223. Phone 402-466-9301.

Co-Founder: Betty Pelletier, 205 W Palma Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Phone 520-625-2936.

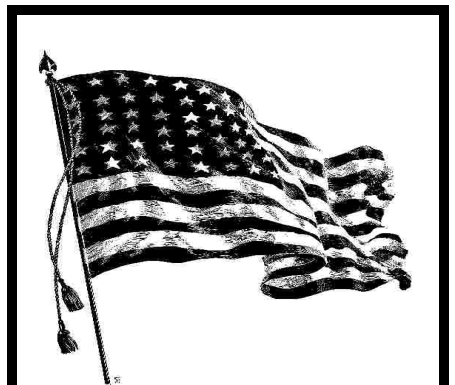
The Association is a non-profit Veterans Organization. All contributions to the organization are gratefully received, but are not deductible under IRS Code. The Chairman is elected by majority vote of all members at each business meeting. The Chairman's Committee serves at the pleasure of the Chairman.

Jimbo Shumake emailed from Glendale, AZ : the last flight of Col. Louis G. Thorup is one of sadness to me. While at Thule AFB, Greenland, in August 1955, he signed my pole-vaulter certificate for a flight that my crew made to the North Pole in a KC-97 aircraft with



some congressmen on a "junket." They wanted to see the "Kee-Bird" (the RB-29) on the lake, the North Pole, the three Magnetic Poles, and the T-3 Ice Island. We did all this and the regular navigator did all the work. I, in turn, composed two additional maps, logs and charts for the two congressmen. I still have my map, but have lost the navigation log. I hope some of this is information for you and your library of things that the membership have accomplished prior to becoming a member of the 307th, which I did at Okinawa...

Shumake continues: one other thing of interest, the newsletter mentioned the book, "No Time for Sergeants." This was along the suggestion that we need a book of things about our friends and events in the 307th that have occurred over the years. Well, believe it or not, my friend and motel buddy at Ellington Field wrote the above book in 1950-51. His name is Max Hyman, a highly qualified and energetic navigator/instructor. The book preface mentions his assignment at Ellington. I have often wondered what he did with all the money and publicity resulting from the sale and movie about this book... If anyone comes to the Phoenix area or to Luke AFB, or to Tucson to visit the vast surplus airplane storage and museum, please call or write me for a possible meeting...Call "Jimbo" at (602) 931-4503...



The Last Flight

Adam Aslaender, OMS, Vilonia AR, Autumn 1994.

Paul R Bachran, Irving TX, 30 July 1998.

Martin Barth, OMS, Niceville FL, 14 August 1994.

Glenn J Lally, 370th & 424th BS, Enon OH, 14 November 1998.

Edmond G Little, HQS, DeBary FL, October 1997.

Jeanette Kelsey, Ahola OR, January 1998.

Harold G Morillo, 372nd / OMS, Charleston SC, 31 July 1998.

Helen Shilling, Scottsdale AZ, 31 August 1997.

The verse on the SAC Chapel Memorial window says it best:

"And God said who shall we send. I answered I am here, send me." Isaiah 6:8

(Continued from page 2)

days. Calling in from Langley, OK, **Kenny Smith** (ARS/FMS) thought maybe he was the first 307th guy to sign in at Lincoln. Kenny signed in with a NAVY clerk on 21 July 1954 according to his travel voucher. The incumbent holder of our record for being the first to arrive at Lincoln is **Marv Nystrom** (FMS) of Watersmeet Michigan. Marv responded that when he arrived there was NO ONE to sign in with, so he didn't sign in. For the next five months they were free to do whatever they wanted during the day, as long as they showed up for morning role call! Marv remains the incumbent on the basis of having a good story. Marv goes on to say the only thing on the ramp was a beat up C-45, the barracks floors were all being sanded, and there was no bedding...the place was a zoo!

Claiming the record for the most Reflex tours from Lincoln, is **Hank Grogan** (372nd BS) of Tampa, FL. Hank had 22 tours, one to Greenham Common and the rest to Moron, Torreon, and Zaragoza. Hank thinks he later came close to a record in the B-52 Buff with 1800 combat hours over 209 Arc Light Missions to Viet-Nam. Hank also claims the dubious honor of making the most house and car payments for other people by virtue of his losses at the alert barracks poker table. But, how did you do at Cripple Creek, Hank?

Now a retired teacher from Tulia, TX, former FMS type **Roy Miller**, reminded us that he and his wife, Catherine, held the *Stars and Stripes* recognized record for the shortest interval between babies: 10 months, 9 hours, and 4 minutes between January and November 1957 in Lincoln.

New member **Charlie Bird**, now living in Bellevue, NE, remarked about his days doing radio maintenance in AEMS and maintaining the UHF in the Wing Commander's car. In addition to marrying a Lincoln lady, he pulled two tours at Offutt before retiring on the Great Plains.

Another new member is **Don Hick-**

man, now residing in Tucson, AZ. Don was the navigator aboard the B-47 crash at Greenham Common, in which Capt Dick West was killed. Don later went through pilot training in 1966 and retired in 1987. He says the Greenham Common accident occurred at 1000 local time 3 Feb 1963. Exactly nine years later, at 1000 local, 3 Feb 1972, he was shot down in his UH-1N gunship. He thinks that perhaps a higher power was trying to get his attention!

Dale Christians, who many folks asked about at Colorado Springs, emailed as a long lost member of the 370th Red Coats. He started an advertising business in Austin, TX, when he retired in 1975, and it has kept him busy enough that he hasn't been able to get to any reunions. However, he intends to hang it up soon and is planning to be at the Lincoln 2000 reunion.



Helen & Gerry Otten in front of their favorite slot machine

At the Dayton Reunion in 1996 a raffle was held, the prize being a handsomely framed limited collector's edition print of "The Douglas World Cruiser #2-Chicago". The print included a small section of the original fabric from the airplane. The winner of the raffle was **Gerry Otten**, from Montclair, CA, and a former member of the 371st BS. Before our recent reunion, Gerry wrote to express his thanks for the print and to tell us it occupies a place of great honor

in his home. If houseguests don't ask about it, he tells them about it!

Now for the big news ... segue to the Colorado Springs reunion and our Friday night outing to the gambling casinos at Cripple Creek. The scene is the Midnight Rose Casino. The casino PA system, which sounds like the drive-thru at McDonalds, comes alive: "squawk grzzz ATTENTION PLEASE hssz qukk MRS OTTmsskwrk 307th BOMB WINGSsquawk gzz HAS JUST WON ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ON THE COLORADO NICKLE PLAYING THE NICKLE SLOT MACHINESsqkk grzzr". Bells rang, and lights flashed! Several of us thought the lucky person was Kay Ott, but no, it was **Hellen Otten**, Gerry's wonderful wife! We were corrected several minutes later

when we saw a smiling but shaken Helen enter the restaurant to sit down with friends and catch her breath. Helen has promised to attend all future reunions and will try to have some of her luck rub off onto other 307th people. However, future reunion chairmen would be wise just to award any prizes directly to the Otten's, and not bother the rest of us with any suspense.

Not everyone had a good day, the day we went to Cripple Creek. The bumper was torn off **Jim Evans'** car by an errant bus while Jim was parked in front of our hotel. Then...at Cripple Creek, wife Jean lost her wallet in a casino! However, there was a fortunate happy ending...it ultimately turned up intact at the casino security office, and everyone's relief was quite audible in the bus returning to Colorado Springs.

Dick Arens (424th) sent us a news clipping that **Neil Cosentino** (372nd)
(Continued on page 7)

Newsletter Schedule

The 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association Newsletter is published for the benefit of all former members of the 307th Bomb Wing of Lincoln AFB, Nebraska. It is expected to be published three times a year in March, July, and November.

Contributions for publication in the newsletter are encouraged, and are essential for the success of this newsletter.

(Continued from page 3)

BS) was a primary election candidate for the Florida House of Representatives.

Trudy Barth, Niceville Florida, told us of a very lovely gesture. Trudy's husband Martin, and their good friend **Adam Aslander** both passed away within months of each other in 1994. She has had bricks, engraved with their names, emplaced in the Servicemen's Memorial, which overlooks the flightline at Eglin AFB.

For you webservers: **Gerry Putnam** (ARS) has given us two URLs for the Pueblo Air Museum, at which he puts in many hours of fond labor. Gerry kindly opened up their B-47 for a number of 307th people who visited there at the conclusion of the Colorado Springs reunion, thus enabling some wives and offspring to obtain their first views of their husband's and father's former "office". Many thanks Gerry. The first site is : www.puebloonline.com/PHAS and is sponsored by the staff at the museum. A second site is www.pueblo.org/phas ; this site is sponsored by the county and has many interesting links to other military history sites.

Many of you who watched the recent Winter Olympics in Japan undoubtedly saw a somewhat lengthy human interest segment centered about a former Air Force aviator, **Lou Zamperini**. Lou had been an Olympic sprinter in the last games held before WW II. In April 1943, Zamperini's B-24 crew was on a search mission out of Hawaii when they were forced to ditch. After 47 days adrift, Lou and another survivor were picked up by a Japanese ship and interred in Japan. The thrust of the TV coverage centered upon Lou's life as a POW, the privation, hard labor, and inhumane treatment. Much concerned the interaction between Lou and his principal Japanese tormentor and torturer, who somehow escaped the war crimes trials before

turning up as a wealthy businessman years later. Lou exuded forgiveness and attempted to see his former guard, who refused, on camera, to meet Lou. All this was brought back into memory, when the recent issue of the newsletter of the 307th Bombardment Group (HV)

Since it's pushing the Holiday Season, we'll share this momento of Christmas-past life among bachelors in Lincoln. In the card, shown nearby, are from L to R: **Ray Stuermer** (98th BW), **Gerry Morris** (371st), **Bill Novetzke** (ARS), and the cute guy sitting on Bill's lap is none other than **Don Daley** (424th)!

A second maritime career, but not in the Navy. That's what **Ernie Denecke** (424th) of Albuquerque has experienced. Seeing Ernie at Colorado Springs for the first time since the Las Vegas reunion, he told of his post Air Force adventures. Upon retirement, he and Roselle bought a sailboat in Seattle and sailed to the Mediterranean, where they remained for seven years. They spent two winters tied up at the Seville Yacht Club and met many Spanish friends there. Another winter in Palma. They explored the Adriatic, the Aegean, the Greek Isles, and all the surrounding territory. Finally, they decided they'd been gone long enough and returned to real estate business in New Mexico. We hope to have Ernie and Roselle share some of their sailing

(Continued on page 8)



Association identified Lou as a member of the 372nd Bomb Squadron. You Blue Hats had some pretty tough professional ancestors!

At the reunion, **Ken Wikle** (424th BS), Calibasas CA, showed an old photo Christmas Card he had run across.

Treasurer's Report			
307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association			
Ending Balance from last report (September 10, 1998):		\$4,427.65	
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	
General Fund Balance			\$2,751.65
Expenses:			
Newsletter postage	<u>32.00</u>		
	32.00		<u>- 32.00</u>
			2,719.65
Income:			
Donations		825.00	
Interest on account		<u>15.96</u>	
		840.96	<u>+840.96</u>
			3,560.61
Memorial Fund Balance			1,676.30
Total balance in bank as of October 24, 1998			\$5,236.91
Sue Jacob, Treasurer			

(Continued from page 7)

related experiences with us in future issues.

It was particularly good to see **Jim and Barbara Cone** at Colorado Springs. Now living in Clifton, Texas, Jim was **Flash Gordon's** copilot in the 424th BS in 1958 and 1959. Late in 1959, Jim had the very bad luck to be one of the last individuals in the United States to contract polio. He was medically separated from the Air Force in 1960, and went on to recovery and a career in financial management with industry. Welcome back, Jim & Barbara!

Jim Flavin, 818th/Valencia CA, couldn't make it to Colorado Springs due to a pre-scheduled tour of Germany and Austria. He wrote to tell of his travels and the many fine musical events they were able to take in. He related how his Berlin friend had received 300 traffic tickets from the East German cops on the Autobahn and how all these citations were erased with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the GDR.

Also unable to make it to Colorado Springs, were **Bill and Mary Rogers** (424th), who had a conflicting reunion involving the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing. They invite their 307th friends to visit them in Harbor Oregon, where they fish the ocean a lot from their boat.

A former 307th "dependent", **Art Williams**, wrote to Tony about the results of his appeal, through this newsletter, seeking contacts with other former sons and daughters of the wing. Thus far he has received only one response, that being from **Mrs Gertrude "Trudy" Barth**. Trudy sent a picture of the 1959 Little League championship team on which her son Richard played. Art says he was truly overwhelmed upon receiving Trudy's letter and picture, and that when he receives our newsletter his "life stops until I have read it completely".

On the ailing list: **Ralph "Harv" Utech** was sidelined just before the reunion with an ulcer and underwent surgery and is recovering well. **Les Walrath** became ill while driving to

the reunion and returned home; he received a clean bill when examined by the docs. **Shirley King** is recovering nicely from a recent illness. She and Bob have had a busy summer with various RV excursions, including managing a statewide rally, which in turn precluded their joining us in Colorado Springs. Their schedule of travel continues to be heavy through the coming winter.

Attention all people with Internet capability. **Betty and Robert Loffredo**, our co-historians, are considering creating a Web Home Page for the 307th. Betty has recently designed a number of Web pages, and is really getting into it. This could be interesting and usefull. For instance, in addition to dissemination

of 307th news and history, etc, we could post color photos of our events and people as we receive them. **Jim Yandle**, (jyandle@scoast.net), has put another interesting idea on the table. Jim operates a dedicated chat channel on the Web, and has suggested creating a chat channel for the 307th, so that we could type/talk to each other in real time. The software to provide the chat capability is available at no charge, and Jim would like to hear of your possible interest. The 307th Web Site under contemplation could have a direct link to the chat channel. Let us know what you think.

Jim Dayley was unable to make it to Colorado Springs because of the termi-

(Continued on page 9)

307th Roll of Remarkable Records

Youngest Married Couple at Lincoln: Mike & Linda Fox. Married 24 Dec 1962; Mike age 19 (DOB 9/5/43), Linda age 16 (DOB 11/18/46).

Youngest B-47 Combat Crew: Crew R-17, December 1958. Solomon, age 24; Gingrich, age 24; Miller, age 24.

Most newborns while at Lincoln: Gene and Betty Hickman, four: Three sons, one daughter.

Youngest individual assigned to Lincoln: Walter F Johnson, arrived Lincoln 4 Jan 56, age 17 yrs, 5 mo, 7 days.

Shortest Time Between Blessed Events: Roy & Catherine Miller, 10 months, 9 hours and 4 minutes in 1957 at Lincoln.

Most Time assigned LAFB: Marvin and Betty Pelletier, 12.5 years from December 1954 till July 1966.

First to arrive at LAFB: Marv Nystrom, early 1954.

Most grades promoted at LAFB: Lawrence C Hall, 4 grades from A3C to TECH SGT.

Most houses lived in in Lincoln: Betty Pelletier, ten.

Longest time to become Combat Ready: Howard O Evans, 4,142 hours in the B-47 over 6 years and 2 months.

Most Reflex Tours from Lincoln: Hank Grogan, 22 tours to UK & Spain.

Luckiest Person: Helen Otten, winner of \$161,000 nickle slot machine jackpot, Colorado Springs Reunion, 1998.

Stake Your Claim and Claim Your Fame!!

(Continued from page 8)

nal illness of his mother, who has since passed away. We offer our condolences to Jim for his loss. Jim wants everyone to know that his work on a book about the 307th BW will be actively resumed by the end of the year. Until his plans were cancelled, he had hoped to talk about the book to us at the reunion, but he'll let us know more through the newsletter.

Raines Video Productions filmed video of our Colorado Springs Memorial Dedication, our banquet, and also shot a number of interviews with some of our people. They are editing the video into a 90 minute tape, with background music which they will offer to our membership for \$29.95 + \$2 postage. You should be receiving a postal solicitation from them, and they have told us the tape is satisfaction guaranteed.

Others we've heard from recently are Charlie Dabbs, Woody Fail, Bud Timmons, Jim Flavin, Al Ottaviano, and O K Shellhammer.

As we went to press, we were notified of the passing of **Glenn J Lally**, former commander of the 424th Bomb Squadron. Those of us who knew this fine gentleman, know that his likes will never pass our way again. God speed, Red.

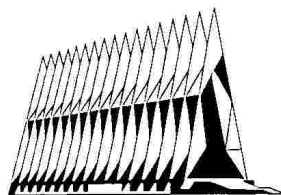
Donations

We wish to acknowledge the generosity of those who have recently made donations to the Association General Fund.

Robert Ace
Charles Dobbs
Robert Delany
Franklin Fish
Richard Kies
Billy Lyons
Bill Rogers
O K Shellhammer
John B Taylor
Paul Trudeau
James Lancaster
Clayton Robson

THE COLORADO SPRINGS RE-UNION

By yours truly, The Bob Schultz



Soar to New Heights
Colorado Springs 1998

It is time to fondly reflect on the Colorado Springs Reunion as a resounding success. I wish to thank each of you, all the participants, who came and enjoyed what was offered and delighted in participation. I did not put this show on. My "staff" and I only greased the slide so it would go smoothly. You made the show what it was.

For the edification of those who had to cancel, we apologize and wish you the best of luck the next time. For those who elected to not attend, you don't know how rewarding this experience became and the superb friendship generated through personal contact. Ginny and I, the Bob, left the Hotel only once in the five days there and that was to eat with Tony, Bev, Mike, and Jan. Our Committee has denied "heavy" support, and I am unable to tell you how much their support gave to the success of this trip, from Pete Todds' assistance with the Plaque, Wendys' presence during Registration, to those who "sat" on Registration Wednesday and Thursday, including, Marge Geiker, Ginny Warrell, Mike and Jan Gingrich, Gerald and Lee Putnam (twice), Betty Pollard and Irene States, Larry and Jan Boggess, and Bill and Peg McCarthy. Several of these people said they did not "do much". I can assure you what they did took the pressure off yours truly sufficiently that I was able to contribute to the rest of the scene. I am eternally grateful. But remember..... you, all of you.,. made this reunion. Participation!!! Superb! My sincerest thanks for the accolades

offered and the warm response from each of you who made personal contact with "the Schultz". I love you.

At this moment it is only appropriate I give my sincerest thanks to my "helpmate", Ginny Warrell, for her intense support in the Coffee, Juice, Donuts, Tea, Cups, Napkin, and cleanup, Hospitality, and Bar effort. It turned into several 18 hour days and she performed willingly in her ever cheerful disposition, an indispensable contribution to the success of this reunion.

Marge Geiker helped Ginny and I "stuff" the envelopes and I am sure we did it right because not one person confronted me with a discrepancy.

I give special recognition to Larry and Jan Boggess who were our "production artists. Many hours of production were put in by them designing, printing, and organizing these, and other sheets of attendance and accounting of the various activities, indispensable to success of the entire operation. I can't thank them enough, without which, I am sure

(Continued on page 10)

Back In Touch

307th members for whom we have obtained addresses since our last newsletter.

Charles B Dabbs, 1350 Fairridge Circle, Marietta, GA 30008

Jack Lee, 6145 Verona Lane, Shreveport, LA 71105.

Juan Marquez, 639 Madison, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Laverne R Musselman, 2094 Wyandot Dr, Xenia, OH 45385.

Orin K Shellhammer, 513 Clayworth Dr, Baldwin, MO 63011-4005.

Richard D Tibbets Sr, RR2 Box 3250, Apt 3E, Newport, ME 04953.

Perry Tovey, PO Box 987, Morongo Valley, CA 92256.

August K Vilseck, 301 Wilson Lane, Elkins, WV 26241-3259.

Gordon L Ziegler, 1857 Del Rey St, Lafayette, CA 94549-1910.

Glad to have you with us!

(Continued from page 9)

I could not have kept track of the loose ends, inventory, money, and attendance. This made my job infinitely easier.

Pete Pollard said "all I did was play golf".... It doesn't take a genius to contemplate that this took another avenue of concern off me that I no longer had to address. Each of these areas are of immense importance, which when set apart, makes the show go. Greyline Tours were exceptionally efficient in providing transportation. My thanks to our counterpart Merrill Nibarger who closely coordinated during the entire event. Sharon McFarland and Ellen DeFrance coordinated all set ups and activity in the hotel to requested perfection. The Hotel was most gracious in their support.

A picture of the 307th Dedication Plaque appears in this newsletter. If you should ever pass the AF Academy drop in at the Cemetery and take a look at it. It's beautiful, and Tony commemorated the 307th in the most noble manner imaginable. You missed quite a show here.

In particular, we all wish to give our deepest appreciation to General Bernard Randolph, one of our own soldiers, for his time, expense, and informative presentation on the direction we are traveling. It is clearly, if you didn't get the message, into SPACE...Thank you Randy and Lucille!

I am sure we will all see you in Lincoln in 2000.

Gerry Putnam deeply regrets more of you could not stop by to see his Pueblo Aircraft Museum; those of you who pass through there in the future, make it a part of your trip. Gerry and Lee put in a lot of their time to this show... you owe them.

We bid you all adieu, and wish you a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for two splendid years.

The Bob Schultz
2706 Northcrest Dr
Colo Spgs CO 80918
719-599-9029

307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association 1998 Reunion. Colorado Springs, Colorado

Minutes of the Association Business Meeting.

1. The 307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association 1998 Business Meeting was called to order by Anthony Minnick, the Association Chairman, at 9:00 AM MDT on June 26, 1998.

2. Chairman Minnick gave the invocation and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business

3. The Chairman asked for a round of applause to recognize all the time and effort spent by Bob Schultz in making this a very successful reunion.

4. There being no further old business, Chairman Minnick opened the meeting to general topics and new business.

General Topics and New Business

5. Don Hesse was recognized as the person who first suggested the Memorial Plaque dedicated at the Air Force Academy on September 25, 1998.

6. The Chairman presented the Treasurers report. Arnold Nollenberg made a motion to accept the Treasurers report. The motion was seconded and no discussion was presented. The motion passed without opposition.

6a. Bud Flanik made a motion that the money remaining in the memorial fund (Approximately \$2500) be transferred to the general fund. The motion was seconded and no discussion was presented. The motion passed without opposition.

7. Presently the association operates on donations. Dues versus donations were discussed. Vern Biaett stated that most of the donations are from those who also attend reunions. He further stated that if we change to a "dues" type of organization we would have to re-file our Non-Profit status with the IRS and make annual reports of our income. Currently, no IRS reports are required.

8. Nominations for Chairman for the

next two years was opened. Bud Flanik nominated Tony Minnick. Vern Biaett moved nominations be closed and the motion was seconded. Tony Minnick was re-elected Chairman.

9. The Chairman led the members in general discussions about the next reunion being in Lincoln, Nebraska in the year 2000. Tony Minnick is forming the reunion committee. Rich Boykin is looking into the possibility of the year 2002 reunion being held in Fort Worth, Texas. No decision was made for 2002. If pictures sent to the newsletter be sent on floppy disk as this would help the editor. This can be done at many photo shops and by the Seattle Film Works.

10. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 MDT.

Vernon L. Biaett
Secretary

Reunions, Past & Present

Colorado Springs concluded the sixth 307th Bomb Wing Association Reunion held over the ten year period since we started in 1988. Each has been highly enjoyable and successful. We attracted 315 people to Las Vegas in 1988, 429 to Lincoln in 1990, Orlando in 1992 had 209 folks show up, while Seattle had 187 in 1994. Dayton drew 243 in 1996, and 211 enjoyed Colorado Springs this year.

Researching our records, we find we have a solid and loyal core of regular attendees. **FOURTEEN MEMBERS AND SPOUSES HAVE ATTENDED EVERY REUNION!** They are: Vern Biaett, Jim Carlton, Bill Carrier, Don Daley, Bob Delany, Jim Evans, Darrell Gallenberger, Mike Gingrich, Merle Hahn, Tony Minnick, Don Nigro, Betty Pelletier, Bob Weidner, and Billy Williams.

Digging deeper, over forty members have attended five of the six reunions. That's a pretty loyal bunch of sheep herders!

In case you wanted to know who made it to Colorado Springs for Bob

(Continued from page 10)

Schultz's festivities, read on:

Bob & Bette Ace, Dick & Eloise Arens, Gerald Bachner, Bob & Carol Baker, Charles & Peggy Baker, Mike & Harriet Barren, Roger & Dottie Beamer, Margot Berkovitz, Vern Biaett, Bill & Marion Bifford, Cliff & Carole Bilek, Larry & Jan Boggess, R. T. & Dru Boykin, Jr., Gordy & Helen Brekken, (Rev.) Bob & Roxann Browning, Amie Bruland, Bob & Pat Byrom, Jim & Carolyn Carlton, Bill & Grace Carrier, Jim & Barbara Cone, Dick & Mary Coon, Dallas & Julie Crosby, Don & Phyllis & John Daley, George & Rita Davis.

Mike & Judy DeCarlo, Bob & Shirley Delany, Ernie & Roselle Denecke, George Dietrich & Joanne Williams, Howard & Mary Evans, James & Jean Evans, Phil & Chris Field, Donal Finn & Elsie Ceerle, Bud & Jan Flanik, Darrell & Lois Gallenberger, Marge Gieker, Mike & Jan & Matt Gingrich, Hank Grogan, Merle & Jeanell Hahn, Bob & Gwen Hansen, Russell (Skip) & Betty Jean Heller, Glen & Lucy Hesler, Elmo & Pat Hills, Brent & Anne Horn, George & Alice Iannacito, "Doc" Jon & Suzette Igelman.

Harry & Carol Jones, Bob Kelly, Richard & Bev Kies, Marie & Bruce Kinyon, Frank & Dede & C.J. Kisner, Pete & Dody Kraska, Vince & Harriet Kovacich, Jim & Darleen Lancaster, Robert & Betty Loffredo, Marvin Lundgren, Billy & LaRee Lyons, Bill & Peg McCarthy, Pete & Pat McKay, Frank & Dede Medrick, Roy & Catherine Miller, Bruce & Melba Mills, Tom & Andrea Mills, Tony & Bev Minnick, Wally & Pat Mitchell, "Moe" & "Dottie" Morrison, Jim & Dottie Myers, Don & Angie Nigro, Butch & Diane Nollenberg, Darrell & Janet Norris, Bud & Shelly Ostgaard, Frank & Kay Ott, Jerry & Helen Otten.

Clarence & Joyce Padgett, Paul & Grace Palmer, Betty Pelletier, Pete & Betty Pollard, Gerry & Lee Putnam, Randy & Lucille Randolph, Maynard & Ella Reece, Clay Robson, Dave & Georgia Roebuck, Lou & Phyllis Roseling, Bob Schultz & Ginny Warrell, Mel & Myma Schultz, Jim & Judy Shelton, Al & Vivian Simpkins, Jim & Twyla Sine, Stan & Irene States, Harold & Dee Struempfer, J. B. & Marty Taylor, T. R. & Eunice Taylor, Noble "Tim" & Gladys Timmons, Pete & Linda Tisdale, Pete & Wendy Todd, Perry Tovey, Paul & Lorraine Trudeau, Jo Tuin & Lori Redovian, Doug & Pat Valen, Bob & Liz Walker, Jan & Judy Walker, Frank & Rose Wanek, Charley & Betty Watkins, Bob & Carolyn Weidner,

Wally & Peggy Whitehurst, Ken & Victoria Wikle, Billy & Jean Williams, Jesse & Jean Worley, Merle & Oleita Young.

Reunion Reflections

Our reunion at Colorado Springs has come and gone, and we now look forward to meeting again in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2000, with Chairman Tony Minnick as our able host.

Colorado Springs? Not enough can be said. Bob Schultz and his talented companion, Ginny Warrell, kept us busy and entertained for the entire four days ... and the weather was gorgeous.

Thursday's trip up to the top of Pike's Peak via cog rail from Manitou Springs was outstanding, enhanced by the flaming yellow aspen and the bracing mountain air. And, the train conductor described the history of each rock we passed! One of our brothers had just bought a new toy, a hand held GPS navigator, which would indicate our position and altitude on a miniature world map to within a gnat's whisker. Being an ex-navigator, he said it would even do Grid! However, when asked how high we were at any particular time, our brother found it easier to read the frequent altitude signs along the rail, rather than hold the GPS outside the window so that the antenna could "see" the satellites. By the time we reached the top, most of us were a little woozy from the thin air, and not inclined to partake of any unnecessary aerobic exercise. However, the delicious donuts in the summit lodge were most remedial!

That evening, we all piled into the buses again for the short trip to the Flying W Ranch, where to our complete amazement, they fed about 1000 people in just over ten minutes. The 307th BW and the 4th Fighter Wing owned the place that night! The chow line was a carefully briefed production. We were told which direction to hold our trays at each serving station, so that the rapid-fire chow disbursement would properly wind up on our plates.

A couple of "slow learners" in our group did not comply with these precision instructions, and wound up with apple sauce in their hip pockets and bra cups! It was real cowboy-out-on-the-range style beef and beans. The entertainment - - good cowboy music, which few of us have heard since the days of Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and the Sons of the Pioneers, when we were much younger.

Friday AM saw us on the buses again to the Air Force Academy. We loaded up on shirts and gifts at the gift shop and then toured the beautiful chapel before receiving an outstanding lunch in Arnold Hall. The dedication of our Memorial Plaque at the Academy Cemetery was brief and deeply moving.

Then, that evening, it was up, up, up the road to the backside of Pike's Peak to the mining and casino town of Cripple Creek, located at 9500 feet elevation. There we did aerobic coordination exercises involving simultaneous motions of the right and left arms as we fed coins into the slots. Most everyone came out a few bucks ahead, save for Helen Otten. SHE had to go and break the bank, and thus attract the attention of the IRS.

Even on Saturday morning, Bob Schultz wouldn't let us sleep in, as he roused us out for our juice, coffee, and donuts in the hospitality suite, and the 0830 business meeting of the entire group. Tony Minnick expeditiously terminated the meeting in time for some of the group to leave on the Royal Gorge tour.

Saturday evening was the cocktail hour and banquet, with side events of much photo taking and laughter. Bernie Randolph, now Vice-President for Space Systems at TRW, described the exciting future of space communications now unfolding, and how important space has become to the Air Force. Somehow, Bob Schultz lined up the best dance band we've ever had at any of our reunions, and many of us old geezers danced until closing time. Sunday AM saw us all saying our good-

(Continued on page 12)

"As I See It"

When I am looked at, people cry at their own reflection, as they slowly drag their hands down the tens of thousands of names that have been carved into my dark granite skin. All of the sudden their hands stop and they kneel to the ground and cry. Although I am just a chunk of granite I have feelings too. When I see them on their knees, I hurt, and as they say good-bye, I cry.

I can remember when they decided that I would be a part of the Vietnam War Memorial I was happy. They sanded me by hand, until I was leveled. I can remember the soft polish that made my black granite coat shine. Then it happened.

As they took me to another room, my heart started to pound. I didn't know what was happening. Then they started to chisel names into me. I was confused and I didn't understand. I turned my eyes and saw another stone. I was shocked when I read it. In big bold print, it read, "Here Lies The Names Of Those Who Died Protecting Our Country In The Vietnam War.

I wanted to die. Why me? Why did they pick me for this? I don't want to be the one to tell people that their husband, brother, father, relatives, friends... they're dead.

I can remember the day they put me in the park. I was scared because I didn't know what to expect. The day they opened the Memorial Wall, a girl, no older than seventeen, came up to me. Her mother whispered that her father's name was imprinted on me. My heart started to pound. When they found his name, she asked her mother to leave her alone. Her mother left, and the girl set an American Flag with a yellow ribbon tied to it, at the bottom of me. She stood back up, touched her father's name, and collapsed to her knees. She was saying a prayer. She asked God why he took him. She explained that he was a very good father, and she didn't understand why he took him, her father, of all people. She asked him to help her cope. As she said this, a warm breeze hit her. I could've sworn that that was an act of God. Then she started to cry, uncontrollably. I wanted to hold her, just to let her know how much I cared.

About thirty minutes later, her mother came and whispered that it was time to go. Her mother called her Marcy. She stood up, face covered in tears, and whispered good-bye. Then she left.

To this day none have touched my heart as much as Marcy. I will always remember the little prayer, the breeze, the whispered words, the girl's face, and the way she made my heart shatter that day. For it was that day, and that girl, Marcy, who made me realize why I am here. Even though I still hurt, I realize my purpose.

Now, as I sit in this Washington, D.C. park, with tall trees surrounding me, it might as well rain. For all the people who come here hurt, passion and love rains inside. Even if people have no relatives carved on me, they still cry, because of all the people who died in the war, and for them we all hurt. I know it hurts people to find a loved one chiseled on me, and to remember how much they loved them. It hurts me too, to think about all the people who died in the war.

Although I am just a piece of granite, I have feelings too.

By: Melanie Edwards Copywrite 1994

Dick Arens' (424th BS) niece, Melany, age 13, wrote this as a classroom assignment. Never has it been put more beautifully.

(Continued from page 11)

byes in the hotel restaurant and lobby as we prepared our departures from Colorado Springs, where we indeed, Soared High!

We reunion attendees all owe Bob Schultz and his committee our gratitude for making our reunion so thoroughly enjoyable.



Email Changes

Since the last issue of the newsletter, there have been several additions to the email list.

Additions

Charles Bird: charlieb@top.net

Earl Buys: earlbuys@cyberramp.net

Dale Christians: d.christians@juno.com

Charles B Dabbs:

cbabbs@mindspring.com

Howard Evans: hoandme@aol.com

Don Hickman: Donhickman@prodigy.net

Chuck Hooker:

MMHOOK@compuserve.com

James L Kent: JimLKent@aol.com

Roy E Miller: Histeach@texasonline.net

Wallace B Mitchell:

Wpmitchell@msn.com

Laverne Musselman:

lmusselman@aol.com

Al Ottaviano: Otto@olynet.com

Paul Palmer: ppalmer227@aol.com

Bernie Randolph:

bernard.randolph@trw.com

O. K. Shellhammer: okshell1@juno.com

Bert Vorchheimer: vorch@att.net

Gordon L Ziegler: czieg99829@aol.com

Changes:

Max Bodenhausen:

maxbo@compuserve.com

Jan Campbell: Cruachan@bellsouth.net

Don Daley: zydeco@primenet.com

Glen Hesler: glenlucy@home.com

Frank Medrick: fjm2@net1plus.com

Bruce Mills: bruce mills2@juno.com

Les Walrath: jan1924@ix.netcom.com

Ken Wikle: wikle@usa.net

If you would like to have a current list of 307th Email addresses emailed to you, drop a note to "mikegingrich@compuserve.com".

The toast Bob offered at the banquet was memorable:

It has been 33 years since last we sipped our fellow cup...

So let us take the tankard down and bravely fill it up,

and drink to our brave brethern...

all who have crossed the great divide...

and when we too reach their camping

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

place...

May our LORD permit us to pitch our tents beside.

BOTTOMS UP.

Bob concluded with a quote from General Douglas MacArthur on his address to a West Point graduating class in the '30's:

"I do not know the dignity of their birth but I do know the glory of their death. They died unquestioning...

uncomplaining... with faith in their hearts... and, on their lips the hope that we would go on to victory.

God and the Soldier all men adore
In time of danger and not before.
When danger is past and things all righted,
God is forgotten and the Soldier slighted.

Reasons # 7 & 8 Why I Never Got Promoted

By Bruce Mills

Reason # 7

We used to choose who was going to get hell at the weekly staff Commander's Meeting. Supply, maintenance, operations, etc, would flip a coin to see who had to catch the Colonel's wrath.

The weatherman took it one day when he said: "It's 30 degrees outside, the sun is shining bright, and the ice on the runway is melting, so we should be able to fly very soon". The Colonel said: "Everyone knows the melting point of ice is 32 degrees - -". But just then a big hunk of ice fell off the roof and gutter. I was the only one who dared laugh. I got hell too. MORAL: Don't laugh about ice unless it's in a martini!

Reason # 8

Me and the weatherman seemed to be in trouble every so often. I, and he briefed a Reflex mission one time to Moron, Spain. Unfortunately, the Bermuda Triangle caught up with us and instead of a 40-knot tailwind we got a 100-knot headwind with thunderstorms over Bermuda where the group was to refuel. I got woke up by FAA asking what to do about our three airplanes which were running out of fuel over the Atlantic. I replied: "Repeat after me: OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN - - -". He, the FAA guy, didn't think it was funny and told the Colonel. If the club had been open I'd of had another drink. MORAL: Pray in silence.

Then, there were the times I dropped a concrete bomb in the Gulf, and lost a forward aux fuel pump on a practice mission up in Canada ...

Members Needed

If there is an "at" symbol "@" next to your name on the address label, it means the Association does not have a membership application on file for you. We've made it easy for you. Just fill out the form below, clip it, and mail it in. That's all there is to it! No cost, no obligation!

Why? As a non-profit Veteran's Organization, we must keep membership records for the IRS. Your completed form is the record. It also indicates your interest in continuing to receive Association mailings.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 307TH BOMB WING B-47/KC-97 ASSOCIATION

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
------------	----------------	-----------

Street	City	State	ZIP
--------	------	-------	-----

Spouse Name _____ Deceased: Yes _____ No _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Approx dates assigned Lincoln AFB _____

Squadrons assigned to _____

LAFB job assignments _____

Current occupation, interests, hobbies, etc. _____

Signature member _____

Date _____

Mail to:
307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Assoc
5920 Robin Court
Lincoln, NE 68516

Signature spouse _____
if spouse wishes membership

BULLETIN BOARD

ATTENTION

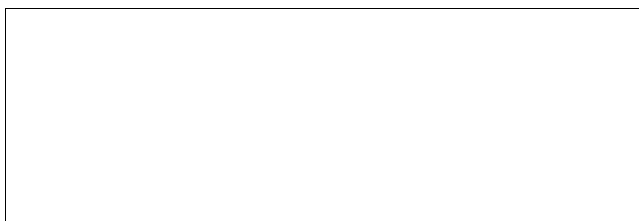
WE MAIL THE NEWSLETTER IN MAR/JUL/NOV. IF YOU WILL BE AWAY FROM YOUR PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS, OR HAVE MOVED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER, PLEASE LET US KNOW. IT WOULD BE KIND IF EVERYONE WOULD SEND A CHANGE OF ADDRESS!!! Thank you from the Newsletter Mailers.

Panoramic Photos

If you were too rushed to sign up for a copy of the panoramic photos taken at the banquet in Colorado Springs, you may contact the photographers at:
Faingold Studios
20 South Elm St
Denver CO 80222.
Cost is approximately \$30 for both photos.

Address Rosters

We have a limited supply of address rosters left from those we printed to hand out at the Colorado Springs reunion. If you would like to receive one, write to Tony Minnick at 5920 Robin Court, Lincoln, NE 68516. Please send three dollars, or a larger donation. Three dollars will cover mailing costs, and any amount in excess will help support this newsletter.



Dated Material
Return Service Requested

307th Bomb Wing B-47/KC-97 Association
5920 Robin Court
Lincoln, NE 68516

PERMIT NO. 700

Lincoln, NE

PAID

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE